

Message Text

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PAGE 01 KUALA 00501 210807Z

ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07

NSAE-00 PA-01 USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02 PM-04 NSC-05 SS-15

/073 W

-----210812Z 124442 /13

R 210356Z JAN 77

FM AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5971

INFO AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY TELAVIV

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE KUALA LUMPUR 0501

E.O.11652: N/A

TAGS: PORG, MY

SUBJECT: MALAYSIAN PRESS COMMENT ON RELEASE OF PLO

LEADER ABOU DOUD

1. MALAY LANGUAGE DAILY "BERITA HARIAN" (BH) ON JAN 13
STRONGLY APPROVED RELEASE OF PALESTININA GUERRILLA LEADER
ABUOU DOUD BY FRENCH GOVERNMENT. BH COMMENTED THAT FRENCH
DECISION CORRECT MOVE AND THAT FURTHER DETENTION WOULD LEAD
TO BAD RESULTS. IN HB OPINION DOUD NOT A TERRORIST, BUT
RATHER A PALESTINIAN FREEDOM FIGHTER WHO AT TIMES HAS TO
RESORT TO VIOLENCE IN PURSUING HIS AIMS. DECISION BY FRENCH
GOVERNMENT IN LINE WITH ITS POLICY OF NON-INTERFERENCE IN
MIDDLE EAST POLITICS, BH ADDED.

2. OTHER THREE MALAY LANGUAGE DAILIES, "UTUSAN MELAYU,"
"UTUSAN MALAYSIA," AND "BINTANG TIMUR" ALSO CARRIED ITEMS
CONCERNING DOUD'S RELEASE. HOWEVER, THEY CONFINED COVERAGE
TO TRANSLATING REUTER RELEASES INTO MALAY AND DID NOT MAKE
SUPPORTING STATMENTS SIMILAR TO THOSE IN BH.

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3. ENGLISH LANGUAGE DEILIES "NEW STRAITS TIMES"
(NSTLN "THE STAR" AND "ECHO" ALSO CONFINED COVERAGE
TO REUTER RELEASES.

4. WHILE NOT DIRECTLY RELATED TO DOUD ISSUE,
JAN 17BH ARTICLE IS ANOTHER EXAMPLE

OF ONE SIDED SUPPORT BY HB ON ANY ISSUE WHICH EITHER
PRO-ARAB OR ANTI-ISRAELI. ARTICLE ENDORSED PROTEST
MADE BY SEVERAL "DEVELOPING COUNTRIES" TO FILM
"VICTORY AT ENTEBBE." BH COMMENTED THAT FILM
GLORIFIES A NEW IMPERIALIST POWER (ISRAEL) AND
RIDICULES UGANDA AS A DEVELOPING COUNTRY. BH
ADDED THAT "IT IS NOT SURPRISING THAT THE FILM WAS
MADE IN AMERICA WHERE THE JEWS HAVE GREAT INFLUENCE."
FILM MADE TO HUMILIATE PALESTINISANS BH SAID, AND COUNTRIES
HAVING FRIENDLY RELATIONS WITH UGANDA SHOULD BAN IT.

5. COMMENT IS MALAY LANGUAGE EQUIVALENT TO NST
AND THEREFORE PRESUMABLY SUBJECT TO GOVERNMENT
INFLUENCE. IT NOT SURPRISING THAT ENGLISH AND MALAY
LANGUAGE PRESS FAVOR DOUD'S RELEASE BUT IN A COUNTRY
WITH ITS OWN URBAN AND RURAL TERRORISM, BH
JUSTIFICATION OF VIOLENCE TO ACHIEVE REVOLUTIONARY
ENDS IS SURPRISING.
DILLON

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 21-Jan-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
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Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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